

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01576 071806Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----071815Z 105685 /50

O R 071750Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3590

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

SECRET BEIRUT 1576

EXDIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, IS, SY, PLO

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON SITUATION

REF: STATE 076882

1. CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS AT HOME 1750
HOURS APRIL 7 AND DELIVERED MESSAGE IN ACCORDANCE
REFTEL. BOUTROS REFLECTED FOR MINUTE AND THEN SAID
HE HAD JUST BEEN TALKING WITH PRESIDENT ABOUT SITUATION
AND WAS DUE TO MEET WITH HIM TOMORROW MORNING (APR 8).
HE WISHED TO DEFER RESPONSE ON QUESTION OF
WHETHER TRUCE OR STANDSTILL POSSIBLE UNTIL HE HAD
TALKED TO PRESIDENT. HE THEN BEGAN THINKING OUT
LOUD AND ASKED HOW TRUCE COULD BE IMPLEMENTED.

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2. WE DISCUSSED THIS FOR FEW MINUTES AND DECIDED
THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO INVOLVE COMMITMENT FROM SYRIANS
TO RESTRAIN PALESTINIANS AND COMMITMENT FROM ISRAELIS
TO DO SAME WITH LEBANESE CHRISTIAN FORCES. HE SAID IT HAD BEEN
SUGGESTED TO HIM THAT HE TALK DIRECTLY TO PALESTINIANS
BUT HE DID NOT THINK TIME WAS RIPE. AS FOR KFOUR FRONT,
HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THAT GROUP ITSELF

TO GIVE COMMITMENT WITH REGARD TO CEASEFIRE UNLESS SOMETHING HAD FIRST BEEN ARRANGED THROUGH SYRIANS. THEY WOULD HAVE TO HAVE SOME COMMITMENT THAT, IF THEY STOPPED SHOOTING, OTHER SIDE WOULD NOT MOVE FORWARD BEYOND POSITIONS THEY NOW OCCUPIED. WE LEFT QUESTION IN REALM OF SPECULATION AND AGREED THAT HE WOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH ME TOMORROW NIGHT.

I ASKED HIM IF HE PREFERRED I NOT MAKE MY SCHEDULED TRIP TO DAMASCUS. HE SAID HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL FOR ME TO TALK TO MURPHY SO THAT ALL OF US COULD HAVE BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF SYRIAN AND LEBANESE SITUATIONS.

4. AT LUNCH TODAY I HAD CONVERSATION ON SUBJECT WITH CAMILLE CHAMOUN, STARTING OFF BY ASKING HIM IF HE THOUGHT CEASEFIRE IN AREA WAS POSSIBLE. HE SAID IT WAS, BUT THAT ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT WAS FOR AMERICANS TO TALK FIR5A-1*LR19* "*

***** * SECRET NNN

Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, IS, SY, LE, PLO, (BOUTROS, FOUAD)
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